



## State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Utah 2020



### Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2019 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$360,068
Forest Legacy	\$30,000
Forest Stewardship	\$173,100
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$600,000
State Fire Assistance	\$621,930
Urban and Community Forestry	\$402,451
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$282,832
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,470,381</b>

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

Cooperative Forestry and Fire Programs are administered and implemented through partnerships between Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands (FFSL), USDA Forest Service (USFS), private organizations, and local governments. These programs promote the protection, health and productivity of Utah's forests, communities, watersheds, and related economies. We emphasize wildfire risk reduction, forest restoration, forest products, wildlife habitat, water resources, rural economies, and conservation practices.

### Program Goals

- Increase active, outcome-based management on all forests through strong partnerships;
- Enhance public benefits through focused efforts to protect and sustain healthy forests, watersheds, and landscapes; and
- Promote voluntary and non-regulatory approaches.

### Key Issues

- Growing risk of catastrophic wildfire, especially in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas;
- Increased age and density of forests and decreased diversity of forest age-classes on federal lands;
- Protection and rehabilitation of water quality and riparian areas;
- Threat of invasive, exotic species to native biodiversity;
- Economic and social well-being of forest dependent communities; and
- Rapid development and demand for urban forestry support.

**Forest Facts and Accomplishments**

<b>Selected Facts</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>FY 2019 Accomplishments</b>	<b>Value</b>
Population	2,763,885	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	376
Acres of Forest Land	18,002,344	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	21,721
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	3,013,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	21,715
Number of NIPF Landowners	66,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	28
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	33
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	15,593,893	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	2,887
Number of Rural Fire Departments	254	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	245	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	106
Forest Based Employment	150	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	1,964,215
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	2	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	12,438
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	31,891,100		

**Program Highlights****Conservation Education**

FFSL contracts with the Utah Society for Environmental Education (USEE) to deliver Conservation Education. USEE uses the American Forest Foundation's Project Learning Tree (PLT) to provide workshops for teachers to learn the PLT model and implement the curricula in their classrooms. These workshops cover outreach activities to encourage participation of teachers, natural resources professionals, and others interested in environmental education. FFSL also encourages homeowners living in wildfire-prone areas to fire-proof their homes. The concepts include fuels reduction and using fire-safe building materials to increase the likelihood of a house surviving a wildfire.

**Cooperative Fire Protection**

FFSL granted approximately \$212,000 to 25 fire departments for training and to purchase firefighting and personal protective equipment. FFSL also certified approximately 2,310 Utah structural firefighters to fight wildland fire and placed 27 firefighting apparatuses with fire departments. Fuel was reduced on more than 2,771 acres to protect communities in the wildland urban interface.

**Forest Health Protection**

Bark beetle infestations and other forest health issues continue to affect large areas within Utah. Over the past 30 years, spruce beetle has infested and killed millions of Engelmann spruce and is still presently active.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has not been detected in Utah. However, Utah is monitoring with detection traps in areas where ash is a considerable percentage of the live tree component. FFSL's Forest Health Protection and Urban and Community Forestry Programs are coordinating with Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), to increase the number of traps in likely areas where EAB may be introduced and in recreational areas where ash is present, such as campgrounds and parks.

Balsam Woolly Adelgid (BWA), an exotic and invasive insect has been established in the United States for over 100 years and documented in Idaho since 1983. BWA was confirmed in Utah on September 6th, 2017, and as of 2019 has been confirmed in Box Elder, Cache, Rich, Weber, Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake, and Summit counties. Utah FFSL, USFS Forest Health Protection, USDA APHIS PPQ, Utah State University, and Utah Department of Agriculture and Food are collaborating to address the impacts of the current infestation. We are looking at potential concerns in regards to snow pack retention, watershed health, fuel loading, aesthetics, and economic impacts. Two public fact sheets are available on the FFSL website: one with general information, and one with general and current managerial information.

**Forest Legacy**

In 2019, the Utah Forest Legacy Program completed the 880-acre Simon Gulch Conservation Easement located in Washington County, Utah. Due diligence work continued on the following funded conservation easements: 4,886-acre Soldier Summit, 644-acre Coldwater, and 1,800-acre Orderville Gulch. When all these projects are completed they will add 8,210 acres to the 74,737 acres of private land that is protected throughout Utah with Forest Legacy conservation easements. Also, in 2019 a monitoring application was developed and implemented across the state in order to streamline the conservation easement property annual monitoring.

**Forest Stewardship**

The Utah Forest Stewardship Program enables private forest landowners to better manage their lands to provide valuable social, economic, and environmental benefits. Across Utah's landscape, approximately 3 million acres or 16% of Utah's forests are held in private ownership. In Federal Fiscal Year 2019, FFSL completed 5 Forest Stewardship Management plans covering 21,880 acres. The plans enable landowners to manage their forest resources to meet their objectives and to provide improved landscape-scale benefits. Utah currently has 92 active plans covering 253,352 acres. FFSL is working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to provide funding through the Environmental Quality Improvement Program to landowners to implement recommended forest practices. Forest Water Quality Guidelines Monitoring also continued with only minor departures being recorded.

**Landowner Assistance**

FFSL is making progress in becoming aware of all forestry practices that are occurring on private forested lands. This awareness will allow FFSL to provide technical assistance to a larger percentage of private forested landowners. FFSL provided technical assistance 259 times to landowners in 2019, along with 117 educational contacts. FFSL made 400 incidental contacts with landowners to discuss natural resource issues and made 58 contacts with contractors that were working on private forested properties. Also, FFSL made 38 contacts with a federal agency, 142 contacts with a state agency, and 25 contacts with a county or city agency to discuss their natural resource issues. These contacts contributed significantly to FFSL's Forest Stewardship accomplishments.

**Landscape Scale Restoration**

FFSL has four active Landscape Scale Restoration projects through which it is working with partners to achieving landscape level solutions.

1. Forest Restoration Through Biomass Utilization in Southeastern Utah: FFSL is working with public land managers and private forest landowners to remove dead and dying timber and use mobile biomass processing units to restore healthy forests. In 2019, FFSL partnered with Utah Biomass Resources Group and Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative to accomplish projects in Dead Horse State Park and on private, state and federal land in the La Sal Mountains.
2. Hamlin Valley Pinyon/Juniper Encroachment: Utah and Nevada are partnering with landowners, organizations, and Federal agencies to address pinyon/juniper encroachment through the rehabilitation of 820 acres of high priority sagebrush shrubland. Project goals are to increase plant diversity for sage grouse habitat and to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires.
3. Virgin River Watershed Restoration: FFSL is working through public-private partnerships to restore riparian forests and habitat in one of Utah's priority landscapes. In 2019, crews began treating private lands to remove invasive species--tamarisk and Russian Olive - and restore native trees for long-term water quality and habitat protection.
4. Monroe Mountain Aspen Restoration: FFSL is working with partners to restore aspen forests on private lands on Utah's high-priority Monroe Mountain landscape. In 2019, FFSL foresters provided technical assistance to five private landowners, encouraging aspen restoration approaches that complement efforts on adjacent federal lands.

**Urban and Community Forestry**

Urban forests provide essential benefits to Utah's quality of life and economy. In 2019, communities planted 664 new trees and 11,210 new seedlings, generating several million dollars in net community benefits. These benefits include reductions in energy use, stormwater runoff, and air pollutants. FFSL promotes healthy urban forests by encouraging communities to participate in Tree City USA, and 89 communities have achieved this designation. FFSL also promotes volunteer support for urban forestry

efforts, and in 2019 volunteers worked more than 12,438 hours to keep their cities green and vibrant. In 2019, FFSL assisted 106 communities (over 71% of Utah's population) in managing their urban forests and maximizing community value. FFSL is also supporting the creation of an urban forest trail in South Jordan City.

Urban and Community Forestry is coordinating with Forest Health Protection and UDAF to strategically place more Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) traps. The additional traps will increase the probability of detecting EAB earlier, if/when it makes its way into Utah.

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## Contact Information



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